

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter June 2003 Page 2

President's Message? Nope.

General Class Upgrade

An upgrade course consisting of two all-day sessions on upgrading your ticket to General class will be held on 31 May and 7 June at the clubhouse. Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ will instruct. Now's your chance to add the HF bands to your license. VE testing sessions are scheduled for 14 June, 27 Sept. and 15 November at the clubhouse. AND there are other clubs testing for Ham licenses in the Bay Area in case our schedule doesn't fit yours. You can help insure your passing of the General class test by taking some sample tests on QRZ.COM.

The first breakfast babble class at the Flatiron Bldg on 2nd street Sunday 18 May was a success. Fifteen showed up and stuffed down quite a bit of chow. Those who ordered the pancakes/hotcakes/flapjacks (your choice) got huge ones, the diameter of your head or more! None left hungry. The only thing on the minus side was the acoustics of the room. Parking was no problem. Not much activity in the area on Sunday mornings. Not a wino in site.

Short History Lesson

For those who don't know the reason for the building's wedge shape, the railroad from Sausalito via San Anselmo chose that point to turn off of Second St. to the "B" St. station according to a map of that time. The map also shows a two stall roundhouse where the Safeway store is now. Leaving 2nd. St. was necessary so as to keep the radius of the next curve, north onto Tamalpais Ave., reasonably long. Union Station was on Tam Ave. between 3rd and

Go to column two.

Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

Tentative VE Test Dates for 2003
June 14, Sept. 27 and Nov. 15. Location for all exams is scheduled to be at the 27 Shell Rd. clubhouse. Time will be 0900.

BOOTLEGGERS on TEN

I am enlisting the MARS membership in an FCC effort to rid the 10 meter band of unlicensed CB type operation. There have been many instances of illegal operation on the 10 meter band, particularly in the lowest 50 khz or so. If you hear any such operation please note the time and frequency heard together with any other information. For example location and license number of vehicle, etc., would be perfect. This is a 6 month effort by the FCC starting may 1st.

Thanks, Ed KØKL

From column one.

4th. Here you could catch a train for points north all the way to Eureka. At Petaluma the Petaluma & Santa Rosa RR could take you to Sebastopol or, via a switch at Liberty, to Two Rock.

If north was not the planned direction, another line ran out to San Quentin Landing. You could also go north by another route out of San Anselmo. The three-foot narrow gauge line ran thru a tunnel in Whites Hill to Woodacre, then on to Point Reyes Station, along Tomales Bay to Marshall, Tomales, Freestone, right through the center of Occidental, Monte Rio, across the Russian River at Duncan Mills and up Austin Creek all the way to Cazadero. The first train arrived there on April 1, 1886 after covering a distance of approximately 86 miles from Sausalito. You can still see some remains of the route, especially along Tomales Bay.

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This is a list of the events I am now seeking volunteers for. If anyone is interested please contact me.

The Dipsea Race June 8.

If you would like to help, send an e-mail or call me at 897-0413.

73, John KF6VYH@ARRL.NET

Public Service Events 2003

Here is a list of dates or approximate dates of events that I know of in 2003:

June

Dipsea Race - Sun. June 8th
About 7 hours

Double Dipsea - Sat. June 21
About 7 hours

August

Headlands 50K - About 8 hours.

October

Providian Relay - Oct 11/12 Sat/
Sun. Arrives in Marin Co. about
3PM on Sat afternoon and leaves
4AM on Sunday morning...
Each location about 8 hours.

Chuck WA6SQQ

June Meeting Program

June's general meeting on 6/6 will feature Jerry Foster WA6BXV, who will do a demo of slow scan TV over repeaters with his equipment. He also has fast scan to show off. We are led to believe that the presentation will be "G" rated.

To register your phone number to block telemarketing calls, go to
nocall.doj.state.ca.us

FCC AFFIRMS HEFTY FINE FOR AMATEUR IN INTERFERENCE CASE

The FCC has affirmed a \$12,000 fine against Technician-class Amateur Radio operator Scott E. Kamm, NØUGN. The FCC released a Forfeiture Order May 7 alleging willful and repeated interference, broadcasting of music and failing to identify with his call sign. The FCC's Kansas City office had released a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on January 24, but Kamm never filed a response, the FCC said. The Commission ordered Kamm to pay the fine within 30 days.

Kamm's station was in Waterbury, Nebraska, at the time he was cited last fall, although the FCC granted his February 27, 2002, application to change his mailing address to a location in Sioux City, Iowa.

Responding to complaints of continuing interference on the input of a 2-meter repeater, FCC agents monitored the machine's input frequency last December 9. They observed a very strong signal on 146.31 MHz "consisting of music, sound effects and unmodulated carriers" and no station ID. The FCC said the transmissions were interfering with amateur communications already in progress.

The FCC twice tracked similar signals to Kamm's residence in Waterbury, Nebraska, inspected his station and found a transceiver capable of operating on 146.31 MHz, the FCC said. Kamm claimed no transmissions were made from his station.

During 2002, Kamm was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth. Last fall, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Kamm's amateur license renewal based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's amateur license expired last September 29, and his license renewal application, filed August 8, has reverted to pending status.

[Plagiarized from the ARRL Letter.]

Board Meeting 13 May 2003

The meeting was called to order at 1935 hours by Norm Baetz WA6CLK. Other board members present were Al Weisman W5ALW, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Raine Kinney KG6GII, Steve Rathbone AJ6Y and Lorraine Karl N2VGD.

Ed Karl KØKL, who this month has taken over the job of handling the club's finances, gave an up-to-date report on the club's financial condition. After some discussion the report was approved. Ed also suggested a \$5K CD be purchased and also that two CDs maturing in June be rolled-over. This was approved by the board.

There was a discussion about this coming Field Day which will be held once again at the Marin Rod and Gun Club the last weekend in June. Chet Rice WA6PAC and Norm Baetz will head the Field Day committee. The board approved the purchase of antenna equipment not to exceed \$200.00 for Field Day use.

(There will be a small (700 watt, w/ turntable) microwave at the Field Day site to cook, or reheat, stuff like elderly donuts that have become afflicted with overnight rigor mortis. Fifteen seconds in the micro and you can fold that puppy in half. Eat it promptly or the earlier rigidity may return. Submerge that blob in your coffee to prolong its reincarnation. The micro will also handle cold "graveyard" coffee and leftover "Colonel's Greasy Bird", KFC. Maybe we can explode a frog or two, as long as it's inside a suitable microwavable container. ed.)

Lorraine Karl said plans for the club's picnic at Sam Taylor Park Aug. 16 are proceeding nicely. More details to follow.

Ben Sawtelle gave a report on classes for Tech and Extra class licenses and Al Weisman discussed future VE tests.

It was recommended that the club sell a piece of equipment that's been sitting in the radio room unused for quite some time. This is a Kenwood TL922 amp. It hasn't been used for quit awhile, condition unknown and no instruction manual, so is as-is. Any club members (ONLY) interested submit your bids by mail to the club's POBox. (sold 6/6/03)

Go to column three.

From column two.

Kevin Foley gave a report on the ham clubs being formed at Tam and Redwood high schools.

Kevin and Ed Karl discussed the possibilities of the club getting involved in charitable programs with a connection to ham radio.

It was put to notice that any board members who do not show up for meetings or fail to show any appreciable club interest be asked to resign. A replacement would be selected. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK Secretary

FOR SALE to THE HIGHEST (REASONABLE) BID

In the club's radio shack: One KENWOOD TL922 amp. Sold as is. No manual. Condition unknown. Probably close to a quarter century old. Plan on putting some time and money into it if you're the 'lucky' winner. Club members, only. Bids to POBox 6423.

Mike Edwards W6FCQ donated the amp to the club prior to leaving the state and it's been sitting unused in the radio shack for three years or so. Here's what he had to say about it:

"The Kenwood Amp has not been modified to the best of my knowledge and belief. Go ahead and sell it. We used to need power, now we need good, sharp receivers more than xmtr. power.

Looking forward to being in Marin for a short time in mid August. Will try to get to a Sunday morning gathering if I can."

73, mike, W6FCQ

Rockmite? Maybe.

At the May meeting a question came up about buying a bunch of RockMite Radio kits as a club project. See me if you are interested. If there's enough interest we can buy a bunch and build 'em together at the clubhouse.

Ed KØKL

FCC GRANTS ONLY FIVE NEW 60 METER FREQS.

The FCC gave amateurs secondary access to five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz instead of the 150-kHz band ARRL had requested.

The granting of just five spot frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna--a half-wave dipole. The channels--each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2.8 kHz--will be available to General and higher class licensees.

"While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," Sumner said. "Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radio communication." The restriction to USB is aimed at maintaining interoperability with federal government users, who conceivably could require immediate access to one of the amateur secondary channels. [Condensed from the ARRL Letter.]

WARNING!

Ed Karl, KØKL, being the owner of an ICOM 706 and a 706MkIIIG, checked with ICOM Tech Support about modifying these units to xmit on the new 60 meter freqs. While no concrete info on the required changes was offered due to legal restrictions—no MARS or Civil Air Patrol license on file—there was a **STRONG** recommendation to run very low power to the 706s on this band. "The original bandpass filters will absorb a lot of heat due to this band being so far outside the normal operating zone."

NO 136 KHz BAND

The FCC bowed to power company concerns and declined to grant amateurs an expected sliver-band allocation at 136 kHz "at this time."

"We are disappointed that the FCC could not see its way clear to providing even a narrow LF allocation to the amateur service, given earlier encouraging signs and the general trend in other countries," ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, said of the FCC's decision.

The FCC, however, found itself more persuaded by arguments from electrical utilities and other commenters that amateur operation at 136 kHz might interfere with power line communications (PLC) used by electrical utilities to control the power grid.

The FCC said a new amateur LF allocation is not justified "when balanced against the greater public interest of an interference-free power grid."

The FCC said amateurs wishing to experiment with LF could apply for experimental licenses or operate under existing Part 15 rules. "We will not jeopardize the reliability of electrical service to the public," the FCC concluded. [Condensed from the ARRL Letter.]



John Butler KF6GNI, our building mgr. and the man responsible for getting the new paint job on the building exterior.

Radio foul-up could cost Nevada Highway Patrol \$1 billion in FCC fines.

A multimillion dollar foul-up building a Nevada Highway Patrol communications system has state police facing fines for operating without proper federal licenses for three years, the highway patrol chief said.

The Federal Communications Commission said Friday that it is investigating the violation, and highway patrol Col. David Hosmer said the agency could levy fines of as much as \$1 billion.

The patrol contracted with Motorola to build the computer radio system to link troopers with each other, the dispatch center and other law enforcement agencies. It was activated in 2000.

However, no one ever applied to the FCC for licenses for the frequencies, Hosmer said, and the FCC is asking the patrol to get off those frequencies by June 9.

The error will force the highway patrol to switch to an old communications system, and could mean the agency will have to start over to build a system as fast and as capable as the one it would have to dismantle.

Some experts said that if FCC issues retroactive approval of the frequencies, the problem could be resolved without replacing the system.

Hosmer said efforts to get the FCC to allow the NHP to have the frequencies retroactively have been unsuccessful.

The patrol might be forced to return to a conventional system in which mountaintop units relay the messages. The old system, Hosmer said, is slower and less effective and can't carry as much traffic. But troopers would be able to communicate.

Chuck Rogers, frequency adviser for Nevada for the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers Inc., said he was asked to help obtain the frequencies once the error was discovered. Rogers said he was confident enough frequencies exist to handle the highway patrol.

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Bear to right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left under the power lines. The upper floor is a private residence.

Business Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The Bible (or babble) Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only.

Marin Amateur Radio Society	Education Chair:	ARRL WAS Local Rep:
President:	Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170	Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120	Ben7ham@aol.com	DX Representative of ARRL:
Vice President:	Membership Chair:	Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829
John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447	Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120	WEBMASTER
Secretary:	VE Liaison:	Glenn Meader N1ZKW 331-2492
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887	Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Treasurer:	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinator
We're still workin' on it.	John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148	John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0413
Additional Board Members:	Trustee for W6SG:	KF6VYH@ARRL.NET
Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978	Steve Rathbone AJ6Y 898-8123	Editor of QSA-5:
Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576	Trustee for K6GWE:	Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849	Bob Webb WB6QPR	604 Galerita Way,
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318	Sunday Emergency Nets:	San Rafael, 94903-2908
Raine Kinney KG6GII 453-3170	HF Frank Strom WA6JTP	K6PHD@ARRL.NET
Lorraine Karl K2VGD 479-8928	VHF Raine Kinney KG6GII	

Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Marin Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

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The Mailing
 Address
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